

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 653 without my signature.

This measure would overturn a recent court decision and extend the marital privilege to administrative, investigatory hearings conducted by law enforcement agencies. While the sanctity of marriage should be protected, peace officers must also honor the relationships they have with the agencies and communities in which they work. If the marital privilege doctrine were extended to hide corruption between peace officer spouses, the relationship between spouses may benefit. However, the law enforcement agency and its reputation within the community would suffer irreparable harm. Although this measure is narrowly drawn, society's interest in protecting marital communications should not extend beyond the courthouse and into peace officer disciplinary proceedings.

For these reasons I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger